

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended): A method for an ordering and payment allocation system for a seller, the method comprising the acts of:
 - receiving ~~one two~~ or more orders from at least one buyer, ~~each of the orders~~
corresponding to ~~at least one~~ more than one seller subsidiary of the
seller;
 - consolidating the orders into a consolidated invoice;
 - making the consolidated invoice available to the at least one buyer;
 - receiving an indication from the at least one buyer as to which of the orders a
payment is being approved; and
 - allocating the payment to a corresponding ~~at least one seller~~ subsidiary for
which the payment has been made.
2. (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the orders are received electronically.
3. (Original): The method according to Claim 2, wherein the orders are received via the Internet.
4. (Currently amended): The method according to Claim 1 further comprising the act of evaluating ~~the a~~ received order against at least one of a spending limit corresponding to the buyer's organization and an available credit limit corresponding to the buyer's organization to determine whether to book the received order.
5. (Original): The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the acts of:
 - booking those received orders which have been evaluated as not exceeding
the evaluated spending limits; and
 - creating a receivable entry in a seller account receivable system.

6. (Original): The method according to Claim 5, further comprising the act of executing one or more off-balance sheet processes.

7. (Currently amended): The method according to Claim ~~1~~5, wherein the consolidation act is comprised of the acts of sorting and compiling the booked orders to create a single invoice.

~~8. (Original): The method according to Claim 7, wherein the compiling act~~
includes formatting booked orders received from different buying organizations into a common format.

9. (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the consolidated invoice includes sub-invoice data, sub-invoice data being data which corresponds to booked orders placed by a respective buyer.

10. (Original): The method according to Claim 9, wherein the sub-invoice data is transmitted to the respective buyer.

11. (Currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the act of making the consolidated invoice available includes at least one of:

sending an electronic message to the buyer to notify the buyer of ~~the~~an
availability of the consolidated invoice;
distributing a paper statement to the buyer; and
transmitting the consolidated invoice to the buyer.

12. (Original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the act of displaying the consolidated invoice on a buyer terminal, wherein the buyer indicates approval of sub-invoice items corresponding to the consolidated invoice using the buyer terminal.

13. (Original): The method according to Claim 12, wherein the indication includes the act of entering a code corresponding to a reason payment is being approved or

denied for a sub-invoice item.

14. (Currently amended): The method according to Claim 12, further comprising the ~~act~~^{step} of using the buyer terminal to authorize payment to the seller.

15. (Original): The method according to Claim 12, further comprising the act of receiving a payment from the buyer.

16. (Original): The method according to Claim 15, wherein the payment is received via one of an automated clearing house, a wire transfer, a lock box, a foreign exchange trade, electronic cash, netting via the Internet, an electronic wallet and a check.

17. (Original): The method according to Claim 15, further comprising the act of updating a payment master database, the payment master database comprising records having:

- a payment date;
- a payment method;
- a payment reference;
- a payment amount;
- a from currency;
- a to currency;
- f/x, tax and fee data;
- a distribution status; and
- an amount distributed.

18. (Original): The method according to Claim 15, further comprising the act of processing the received payment.

19. (Original): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the act of processing the received payment is comprised of at least one of the acts of:

- performing a consolidated receivables process to gather payment data into consolidated receivables data for a single report;

matching the consolidated receivables data to an outstanding sub-invoice file,
and providing the matched data to the seller;
providing complete accounts receivable processing, the act of providing
complete accounts receivable processing comprising the acts of:
receiving the matched data;
applying the merged and consolidated receivables data to create accounts
receivable and general ledger update data; and
updating a general ledger corresponding to the seller.

20. (Original): The method according to Claim 19, wherein the payment data gathered into the single report during the consolidated receivables process is received from a plurality of service providers.

21. (Original): The method according to Claim 13, wherein the allocation act is comprised of the acts of:

receiving the authorized payment;
disaggregating the received payment to associate portions of the received payment with one or more selling sub-entities;
processing the received payment to update an accounts receivable system;
generating at least one funding report;
delivering the at least one funding report to the respective sub-entities; and
transferring the disaggregated funds to financial accounts for the corresponding sub-entities.

22. (Original): The method according to Claim 21, wherein the funding report generation act is comprised of the act of updating a payment master database to reflect a distribution status and amount distributed to the corresponding subsidiary.

23. (Original): The method according to Claim 22, wherein the funding report comprises:

a list of sub-invoice items included in the distribution;

a payment date;
results of exception and dispute processing;
sub-invoice details; and
reason codes.

24. (Currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the allocation act includes the acts of:

~~receiving the payment;~~
determining an incremental funding amount;
funding a subsidiary corresponding to ~~the~~ holding account via a foreign exchange if the incremental funding amount equals or exceeds a predetermined total when combined with a holding account amount;
and
allocating the incremental funding amount to the holding account amount when the incremental funding amount is less than the predetermined total when combined with the holding account amount.

25. (Currently amended): An ordering and payment allocation system, comprising:

an order management system, the order management system:
receiving at least one order from a buying organization having at least one buyer;
evaluating the at least one order against one or more criteria, orders which meet the one or more criteria being approved orders;
booking the approved orders;
generating a consolidated invoice based on the approved orders;
making the consolidated invoice available to the buying organization; and
receiving an approval indication from the buying organization, the approval indication including an identification of those booked orders for which payment is authorized; and

a funds distribution system, the funds distribution system facilitating the distribution of the authorized payment received from the buying organization.

26. (Original): The system according to Claim 25, wherein the orders are received electronically.

27. (Original): The system according to Claim 26, wherein the orders are received via the Internet.

28. (Original): The system according to Claim 25 wherein the evaluating act comprises evaluating the received order against at least one of a spending limit corresponding to at least one buyer and an available credit limit corresponding to the buyer organization to determine whether to book the order.

29. (Original): The system according to Claim 25, wherein the order management system further performs the function of creating a receivable entry in a seller account receivable system.

30. (Original): The system according to Claim 25, wherein the invoice consolidation generation function is comprised of the functions of sorting and compiling the booked orders to create a single invoice.

31. (Original): The system according to Claim 30, wherein the compiling function includes formatting booked orders received from different buying organizations into a common format.

32. (Original): The system according to Claim 25, wherein the consolidated invoice includes sub-invoice data, sub-invoice data being data which corresponds to booked orders placed by a respective buyer.

33. (Original): The system according to Claim 25, wherein the function of

making the consolidated invoice available includes sending an electronic message to the buyer to notify the buyer of the availability of the consolidated invoice.

34. (Original): The system method according to Claim 25, wherein the order management system further causes the consolidated invoice to be displayed on a buyer terminal and wherein the buyer indicates approval of sub-invoice items corresponding to the consolidated invoice using the buyer terminal.

35. (Original): The system according to Claim 34, wherein the indication includes entering a code corresponding to a reason payment is being approved or denied for a sub-invoice item.

36. (Original): The system according to Claim 34, wherein the order management system receives a payment from the buyer.

37. (Original): The system according to Claim 36, wherein the payment is received via one of an automated clearing house, a wire transfer, a lock box, a foreign exchange trade, electronic cash, netting via the Internet, an electronic wallet and a check.

38. (Original): The system according to Claim 36, wherein the order management system is comprised of a payment master database, the payment master database comprising records having:

- a payment date;
- a payment method;
- a payment reference;
- a payment amount;
- a from currency;
- a to currency;
- f/x, tax and fee data;
- a distribution status; and
- an amount distributed.

39. (Original): The system according to Claim 36, wherein the order management system processes the received payment.

40. (Original): The system method according to Claim 39, wherein processing the received payment includes at least one of:

performing a consolidated receivables process to gather payment data into consolidated receivables data for a single report;
matching the consolidated receivables data to an outstanding sub-invoice file, and providing the matched data to the seller;
providing complete accounts receivable processing, the act of providing complete accounts receivable processing comprising the acts of:
receiving the matched data;
applying the merged and consolidated receivables data to create accounts receivable and general ledger update data; and
updating a general ledger corresponding to the seller.

41. (Original): The system according to Claim 13, wherein the funds distribution system performs functions which include:

generating at least one funding report;
delivering the at least one funding report to the respective sub-entities; and
transferring the disaggregated funds to financial accounts for the corresponding sub-entities.

42. (Original): The system according to Claim 41, wherein the funding report comprises:

a list of sub-invoice items included in the distribution;
a payment date;
results of exception and dispute processing;
sub-invoice details; and

reason codes.

43. (Original): The system according to Claim 25, wherein the order management system comprises an Internet web site.

44. (Original): The system according to Claim 25, wherein the order management system comprises a division profile database, the division profile database having records having:

- an identification code;
- a subsidiary name;
- a subsidiary address;
- a subsidiary contact individual;
- a subsidiary bank SWIFT code or ABA RTN;
- a subsidiary bank account reference; and
- a seller's general ledger account number.

45. (Original): The system according to Claim 25, wherein the order management system comprises an invoice master database, the invoice master database comprising consolidated invoice data records and corresponding sub-invoice data records.

46. (Original): The system according to Claim 45, wherein the consolidated invoice data records have:

- an invoice date;
- a customer reference;
- a consolidated invoice reference number;
- a total invoice amount;
- an invoice amount paid;
- an invoice adjustment amount;
- an invoice amount outstanding; and
- an invoice amount distributed.

47. (Original): The system according to Claim 45, wherein the sub-invoice data records have:

- a subsidiary code;
- an invoice reference;
- an invoice amount;
- ~~an invoice amount paid;~~
- an invoice adjustment amount;
- an invoice amount outstanding; and
- an invoice amount distributed.

48. (Currently amended): An order management system using a communication network to support at least one selling entity and one or more unaffiliated buying organizations, the order management system comprising:

- a database;
- a network interface coupled to the communication network; and
- a processor, the processor executing functions which include:
 - receiving at least one order from a buying organization having at least one buyer;
 - evaluating the at least one order against one or more criteria, orders which meet the one or more criteria being approved orders;
 - generating a consolidated invoice based on the approved orders;
 - making the consolidated invoice available to the buying organization; and
 - receiving an approval indication from the buying organization, the approval indication including an identification those approved orders for which payment is authorized.

49. (Original): The order management system according to Claim 48, wherein the orders are received electronically.

50. (Original): The order management system according to Claim 49, wherein the orders are received via the Internet.

51. (Currently amended): The order management system according to Claim 48, wherein the criteria include at least one of a spending limit corresponding to the buyer and an available credit limit corresponding to the buyer corresponding buying organization to determine whether to book ~~the~~an order.

52. (Original): The order management system according to Claim 51, wherein the order management system books those received orders which have been evaluated as not exceeding the evaluated spending limits creates a receivable entry in a seller account receivable system.

53. (Original): The order management system according to Claim 48, wherein the consolidation function includes sorting and compiling the booked orders to create a single invoice.

54. (Original): The order management system according to Claim 53, wherein the compilation includes formatting booked orders received from different buying organizations into a common format.

55. (Original): The order management system according to Claim 48, wherein the consolidated invoice includes sub-invoice data, sub-invoice data being data which corresponds to booked orders placed by a respective buyer.

56. (Original): The order management system according to Claim 48, wherein the consolidated invoice is made available by at least one of:
 sending an electronic message to the buyer to notify the buyer of the
 availability of the consolidated invoice; and
 transmitting the consolidated invoice to the buyer.

57. (Original): The order management system according to Claim 48,

wherein the database comprises a payment master database, the payment master database comprising records having:

- a payment date;
- a payment method;
- a payment reference;
- a payment amount;
- a from currency;
- a to currency;
- f/x, tax and fee data;
- a distribution status; and
- an amount distributed.

58. (Original): The order management system according to Claim 48, wherein the order management system receives the authorized payment and processes the received payment.

59. (Original): The order management system according to Claim 58, wherein the processor function further comprises allocating the received payment, allocating the received payment including:

- disaggregating the received payment to associate portions of the received payment with one or more selling sub-entities;
- processing the received payment to update an accounts receivable system;
- generating at least one funding report;
- delivering the at least one funding report to the respective sub-entities; and
- transferring the disaggregated funds to financial accounts for the corresponding sub-entities.

60. (Original): The order management system according to Claim 48, wherein the order management system is arranged to comprise an Internet web site.

61. (Original): The order management system according to Claim 49,

wherein the database comprises a division profile database, the division profile database having records which include:

- an identification code;
- a subsidiary name;
- a subsidiary address;
- a subsidiary contact individual;
- a subsidiary bank SWIFT code or ABA RTN;
- a subsidiary bank account reference; and
- a seller's general ledger account number.

62. (Original): The order management system according to Claim 48, wherein the database comprises an invoice master database, the invoice master database comprising consolidated invoice data records and corresponding sub-invoice data records.

63. (Original): The order management system according to Claim 62, wherein the consolidated invoice data records each have:

- an invoice date;
- a customer reference;
- a consolidated invoice reference number;
- a total invoice amount;
- an invoice amount paid;
- an invoice adjustment amount;
- an invoice amount outstanding; and
- an invoice amount distributed.

64. (Original): The order management system according to Claim 62, wherein the sub-invoice data records each have:

- a subsidiary code;
- an invoice reference;
- an invoice amount;
- an invoice amount paid;

an invoice adjustment amount;
an invoice amount outstanding; and
an invoice amount distributed.

65. (Currently amended): A method for a selling entity for allocating funds received from a buying organization, comprising the acts of:

disaggregating the received funds to associate portions of the received funds
~~with one two or more selling sub-entities of the selling entity;~~
processing the received funds to update an accounts receivable system;
delivering funding reports to the respective sub-entities; and
transferring the disaggregated funds to financial accounts for the
corresponding sub-entities.

66. (Currently amended): The method according to Claim 65, wherein the transferring act includes the acts of:

determining an incremental funding amount;
funding a ~~subsidiary sub-entity~~ corresponding to ~~the~~ holding account via a
foreign exchange if the incremental funding amount equals or exceed
a predetermined total when combined with a holding account
amount; and
allocating the incremental funding amount to the holding account amount
when the incremental funding amount is less than the predetermined
total when combined with the holding account amount.

67. (Currently amended): A storage medium storing computer executable programmatic code for an order management system for a seller, which, when executed, performs the acts of:

receiving ~~one two~~ or more orders from at least one buyer, ~~each of~~ the orders
corresponding to more than at least one seller subsidiary of the seller;
consolidating the orders into a consolidated invoice;
making the consolidated invoice available to the at least one buyer;

receiving an indication from the at least one buyer as to which of the orders a payment is being authorized.

68. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the orders are received electronically.

69. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 68, wherein the orders are received via the Internet.

70. (Currently amended): The storage medium according to Claim 68, wherein the code, when executed, further performs~~comprising~~ the act of evaluating the received order against at least one of a spending limit corresponding to the buyer's and an available credit limit corresponding to the buyer's organization to determine whether to book the order.

71. (Currently amended): The storage medium according to Claim 70, wherein the code, when executed, further performs~~comprising~~ the acts of:
booking those received orders which have been evaluated as not exceeding
the evaluated spending limits; and
creating a receivable entry in a seller account receivable system.

72. (Currently amended): The storage medium according to Claim 71, wherein the code, when executed, further performs~~comprising~~ the act of executing one or more off-balance sheet processes.

73. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the consolidation act is comprised of the acts of sorting and compiling the booked orders to create a single invoice.

74. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 73, wherein the compiling act includes formatting booked orders received from different buying organizations into a common format.

75. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the consolidated invoice includes sub-invoice data, sub-invoice data being data which corresponds to booked orders placed by a respective buyer.

76. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 75, wherein the sub-invoice data is transmitted to the respective buyer.

----- 77. -- (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the act of --
making the consolidated invoice available includes at least one of:

 sending an electronic message to the buyer to notify the buyer of the
 availability of the consolidated invoice;
 distributing a paper statement to the buyer; and
 transmitting the consolidated invoice to the buyer.

78. (Currently amended): The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the code, when executed, further performs~~comprising~~ the act of displaying the consolidated invoice on a buyer terminal, wherein the buyer indicates approval of sub-invoice items corresponding to the consolidated invoice using the buyer terminal.

79. (Currently amended): The storage medium according to Claim 78, wherein the buyer's approval indication includes the act of entering a code corresponding to a reason payment is being approved or denied for a sub-invoice item.

80. (Currently amended): The storage medium according to Claim 78, wherein the code, when executed, further performs~~comprising~~ the act~~step~~ of using the buyer terminal to authorize payment to the seller.

81. (Currently amended): The storage medium~~method~~ according to Claim 78, wherein the code, when executed, further performs~~comprising~~ the act of receiving a payment from the buyer.

82. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 81, wherein the

payment is received via one of an automated clearing house, a wire transfer, a lock box, a foreign exchange trade, electronic cash, netting via the Internet, an electronic wallet and a check.

83. (Currently amended): The storage medium according to Claim 81, wherein the code, when executed, further performs~~comprising~~ the act of updating a payment master database, the payment master database comprising records which include:

a payment date;
a payment method;
a payment reference;
a payment amount;
a from currency;
a to currency;
f/x, tax and fee data;
a distribution status; and
an amount distributed.

84. (Currently amended): The storage medium according to Claim 81, wherein the code, when executed, further performs~~comprising~~ the act of processing the received payment.

85. (Currently amended): The storage medium according to Claim 84, wherein the act of processing the received payment is comprised of at least one of the acts of:

performing a consolidated receivables process to gather payment data into consolidated receivables data for a single report;
matching the consolidated receivables data to an outstanding sub-invoice file, and providing the matched data to the seller; and
providing complete accounts receivable processing, the act of providing complete accounts receivable processing comprising the acts of:
receiving the matched data;

applying the merged and consolidated receivables data to create accounts receivable and general ledger update data; and
updating a general ledger corresponding to the seller.

86. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 84, wherein the payment data gathered into the single report during the consolidated receivables process is received from a plurality of service providers.

87. (Currently amended): The storage medium according to Claim ~~8079~~, wherein the code, when executed, further performs an allocation act ~~is comprised of~~comprising the acts of:

- receiving the authorized payment;
- disaggregating the received payment to associate portions of the received payment with one or more selling sub-entities;
- processing the received payment to update an accounts receivable system;
- generating at least one funding report;
- delivering the at least one funding report to the respective sub-entities; and
- transferring the disaggregated funds to financial accounts for the corresponding sub-entities.

88. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 87, wherein the funding report generation act is comprised of the act of updating a payment master database to reflect a distribution status and amount distributed to the corresponding subsidiary.

89. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 88, wherein the funding report comprises at least one of:

- a list of sub-invoice items included in the distribution;
- a payment date;
- results of exception and dispute processing;
- sub-invoice details; and

reason codes.

90. (Currently amended): The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the code, when executed, further performs an allocation act that includes the acts of:

receiving ~~a~~the payment;

determining an incremental funding amount;

~~funding a subsidiary corresponding to a~~ holding account via a foreign exchange if the incremental funding amount equals or exceeds a predetermined total when combined with a holding account amount; and

allocating the incremental funding amount to the holding account amount when the incremental funding amount is less than the predetermined total when combined with the holding account amount.